

History of Ann (Hannah) Matilda Baldwin

By Her Granddaughter Ellafair Foster

Ann Baldwin was christened Hannah Matilda Baldwin, but I suppose because the English people drop their "H's" she was called Ann by all who knew her.

Ann was born 28 March 1838 in Birmingham, Warwickshire, England. She was the sixth child and second daughter of Elizabeth Ann Cole and David Baldwin. Elizabeth Ann Cole was born 22 December 1805 in Badby, Northamptonshire, England to William Cole and Ann Smith.

David Baldwin was born 29 March 1803 in Stratford-On-Avon, Warwickshire, England to William Baldwin and Mary Clarke.

Ann joined the Church when her parents and most of her brothers and sisters did through the influence and teachings of Isaac Cutler, her fathers partner in his mill and bakery business. The two oldest boys never did join the church. The family had a desire to go to America to join the Saints so the father, David, took his son Henry Thomas and went to prepare the way for the rest of the family to join them. They arrived in St. Louis in 1849 at the height of the Choloras epidemic and David died of the disease in St. Louis 21 June 1849. Henry Thomas died in Springfield, Illinois 20 May 1851.

Ann's mother married Mr. Cutler for business reasons and because he was an old man he did not want to leave England. Ann had been working in factories with a girl friend Ann Harms, and they decided to save their money and go to America. So on 3 March 1856, she and her girl friend left England and sailed on the "Enoch Train" for America. She was just 18 years old when she left. They were on the sea six weeks and they landed at Boston, Mass. They then went by railroad to Iowa City, Iowa where they got their handcarts for the journey across the plains.

She crossed the plains with the first handcart company under Captain Edmund Ellsworth. The journey was about 1000 miles and took ten weeks. She walked every step of the way and part of the way she hauled her friend Ann Harms who became quite ill. Ann had good clothes and bedding but she had to leave most of it as the carts only held 150 lbs. In spite of the hardships, short rations and all the walking she gained 10 lbs and they laughingly called her the fat handcart girl. Sometimes she was given cake for taking care of babies. She was happy to get a bowl or pan to scrape and clean. They waded streams and rivers up to their waists and when their shoes wore out they went barefoot with their feet bleeding.

An interesting sidelight is told of how my grandpa Johnson, Elmer Wood, stood with his mother watching the first handcart company pass through Council Bluff, Iowa. He was two years old at that time and some nineteen years later he married the daughter of Ann in Salt Lake City.

In that first handcart company was a number of Englishman who seemed to leave the

work for the women to do. It is told that Ann had a sweetheart among them but on arriving in Salt Lake she said she would never marry an Englishman. On the trek as they were going over Big Mountain the company was scattered by a big snow storm and Ann traveled all one night to catch up with the company.

On arriving in Salt Lake they stopped at the tithing office where the Hotel Utah now stands. One of Brigham Young's daughters, Vilate Decker, took Ann home with her to work for her. Later she went to work for Fermor Little, a nephew of Brigham Young. Then, on 21 Dec. 1858 she married a brother of Feramor Little, James Amasa Little. James was the son of Susannah Young and James A. Little and she became his second wife. They lived in Salt Lake until 1861 when Ann's mother Elizabeth came to Salt Lake City. Elizabeth had heard that her daughter's marriage was illegal and so she went to Brigham Young and she didn't mince words with him. Of course the marriage was legal but to avoid further trouble, James A. Little and his wives were called to help settle St. George.

After three years in St. George, Mr. Little took his first wife Mary to settle Eagle Valley in Nevada.

Ann was left destitute and so she went to work for a Mr. Copeland for a stove and some flour. She had a nursery she sold to Mr. Copeland for a loom and then she wove cloth and did washings at night. Two of her daughters remember seeing a coat she had woven for a man and it did not look homemade at all. Perhaps she worked in a clothing factory in England and put that knowledge to work. She also wove carpets.

Later when they moved to Kanab, she sometimes had her daughters stay home from school to wind shuttle for her.

In 1869 she moved to Eagle Valley Nevada, having lived in St. George eight years. When Nevada was surveyed and it was found that Eagle Valley was not in Utah, they were forced to move, as Nevada did not allow Mormons to live there. Ann went to Payson where her mother was living and stayed there for over a year. Her mother doctored her and took care of her until her health was better. Her husband then moved her and her family to Kanab, Utah. In Kanab she wove and did washings for John Stewart. She missed only two weeks in five years.

In 1890 she moved to Old Mexico with her sons Malcom and David. They were fourteen and twelve years old at that time. Her daughter Mary Jane and husband Elmer Wood Johnson were living in Colonial Diaz and she moved close to them. Her husband remained in Salt Lake where he wrote a history of Brigham Young. He kept their daughter Harriet who was sixteen years old to do his typing for him.

Ann was the mother of nine sons and daughters. The daughters were Mary Jane (Johnson), Christina (Nuttal), Susan (Robinson), Laura (Broadbent), and Harriet (Jacobson). The sons were Lorin Amasay, Willis Copeland, Malcom, and David Baldwin.

Ann was a wonderful mother who guided her children and gathered them about her to pray and she taught them to be clean and pure. She was a hard worker, and she taught her children to work hard.

Being a second wife she had to care for her family without much help as many of the wives had to do. My grandmother, Mary Jane, who was the oldest of the family, related how her father saw her when she was playing with some other children. She was a pretty little girl with long curls of gold and her father patted her on the head and asked her whose little girl she was. She told him she was his little girl. He was away so much that he didn't recognize his own children.

He also went to Colonial Diaz, but I don't know just when. It was Great Grandfather Little who was a patriarch, who taught my father Burrell Kendrick and his brother Uncle Andrew the gospel. They were baptized and confirmed in March 1906 and grandmother Ann Little passed away on May 4, 1906 in Colonial Diaz, Old Mexico, and she is buried there.